





# DAVID ELMER JEREMIAH

1 March 1990 — 28 February 1994

David Jeremiah was born on 25 February 1934 in Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Portland and earned a bachelor of business administration in 1955 from the University of Oregon, Eugene. Jeremiah entered Naval Officer Candidate School and was commissioned an ensign on 30 March 1956. During the next ten years he served on five destroyers in the US Pacific Fleet and rose to lieutenant commander.

From 1966 to 1968 Lieutenant Commander Jeremiah worked in the Surface Electronic Warfare Systems Section in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Operations and Readiness. During this period he saw that policy was often made through the financial process; so in 1968 he earned a master of science in financial management from George Washington University. After a tour as Executive Officer of the guided missile destroyer USS *Joseph Strauss*, Commander Jeremiah attended Armed Forces Staff College from August 1970 to January 1971. Four months later he graduated from the program management development course at the Harvard Business School.

Over the next several years, staff assignments alternated with sea duty. In 1971 Jeremiah became an analyst in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Program Analysis and Evaluation. From 1974 to 1976 he commanded the guided missile destroyer USS *Preble*. In 1976 he headed the Programs, Plans, and Development Branch in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO). He was promoted to captain in 1977. From 1979 to 1980, he commanded Destroyer Squadron 24. The following two years he served

**Admiral David E. Jeremiah**  
United States Navy



Ensign Jeremiah.

as Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet. He next served as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations and was promoted to flag rank on 1 October 1983.

From August 1984 to April 1986 Jeremiah, now a rear admiral, commanded Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT and during that period twice saw action in the Mediterranean. As Commander of Task Force 60, embarked in the carrier USS *Saratoga* (CV 60), Jeremiah coordinated naval air efforts in October 1985

that forced down an Egyptian commercial airliner carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. While engaged in freedom of navigation operations in the Gulf of Sidra in 1986, forces under his command destroyed several missile patrol craft and two Libyan surface-to-air missile sites.

Jeremiah left the Mediterranean and, after promotion to vice admiral, served in the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as Director of Program Planning from April 1986 to September 1987. On 29 September 1987 the Navy



Commander Jeremiah on board the USS *Joseph Strauss*, 1970.

promoted him to admiral and selected him to be the twenty-third Commander in Chief of the US Pacific Fleet (USCINCPACFLT).

With extensive operational experience, including command in the Mediterranean and the Pacific, and programmatic and fiscal management expertise, Admiral Jeremiah

became the nation's second Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 1 March 1990. He assumed responsibility in the areas of joint warfighting requirements development, resource allocation, crisis-policy management, nuclear weapons development and security, and oversight of intelligence requirements.





Rear Admiral Jeremiah, as commander of Task Force 60, in the task force command and control room of the USS *Saratoga* during operations off the coast of Libya, 1986.

Jeremiah once observed that, in fulfilling these responsibilities for the Chairman, the job of Vice Chairman was “the broadest in the Department of Defense, certainly the broadest job in military uniform.”

Admiral Jeremiah served with General Colin L. Powell for three and one-half years. Their working relationship closely resembled a partnership, with Powell describing Jeremiah as his “alter ego.” They decided that the

Vice Chairman should participate fully in the management and direction of the Joint Staff and in providing military advice to the National Command Authorities. Jeremiah dealt with the services on programs and budgets, with the National Security Council (NSC) Deputies Committee in crisis management, and with the Director of Central Intelligence on intelligence requirements and oversight. Powell relied on Jeremiah as a sounding board and source of advice on a wide range of issues. Thus Jeremiah's influence went well beyond his responsibilities as Chairman of the Joint Requirements Oversight Council (JROC) and Vice Chairman of the Defense Acquisition Board (DAB) and as the Chairman's representative in the interagency policy-making process. In October 1992, with strong backing from Powell, Congress made the Vice Chairman a full member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Admiral Jeremiah worked as a member of the NSC Deputies Committee to orchestrate the military buildup in Saudi Arabia, preserve a diverse coalition, define US objectives, and oversee operations to liberate Kuwait. For his contributions during the Persian Gulf War, he received the President's Citizens Medal.

During both the Bush and Clinton administrations, when the Deputies Committee debated the use of US forces in regional crises in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia, Jeremiah opposed such involvement unless it was part of a comprehensive program to address the roots of the crisis in each country. Nevertheless, in 1992, when international famine relief efforts in Somalia were frustrated by Somali warlords and roving bandits, Admiral Jeremiah supported President George Bush's decision to deploy US forces there in December as part of a relief operation. Operation RESTORE HOPE succeeded in reopening delivery routes and protecting UN food relief convoys.

When a United Nations follow-on force took over the operation in May 1993, it lacked a clear chain of command, agreed objectives, and the supporting economic and political support that Admiral Jeremiah persistently advocated, and forces controlled by Somali warlords, notably Mohammed Farah Aideed, resumed their depredations. In June after gunmen ambushed and killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, the UN Security Council called for the capture of those responsible for the killings. Together with General Powell, Admiral Jeremiah opposed calls for deployment of Special Operations Forces (SOF) but reluctantly agreed in August after repeated attacks on US troops.

Three days after Powell retired, attacks on US forces in Somalia led to a change in US policy. As Acting Chairman until General John Shalikashvili became Chairman on 25 October, Admiral Jeremiah was a key participant in setting a new course. On 3 October 1993, after a successful SOF raid in which important subordinates of Aideed were captured, Somali gunmen shot down two US helicopters. When US troops attempted a rescue, a large force of Somalis pinned down the Americans, killing 18 and wounding 84. Public reaction led President Clinton to withdraw SOF forces. He set a specific timetable for withdrawal and, at Jeremiah's urging, directed both ground and sea-based reinforcement of the remaining forces to stabilize the situation.

Wary of deploying US ground combat troops to areas where no US vital interest was at stake, Admiral Jeremiah also argued within the Deputies Committee against ground operations in Haiti and Bosnia. He recommended multinational efforts to reorganize the Haitian security forces, restore the elected president, and provide developmental aid. Despite his warning that adequate diplomatic groundwork was not in place, the USS *Harlan County*, with a US training mission of nearly 200 troops was sent to Haiti in October 1993, only





Admiral Jeremiah meets with the headman and a tribesman in Oddur, Somalia, 1992.

to be prevented from docking at Port-au-Prince by paramilitary gangs loyal to the ruling military junta.

The contingencies in Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia; the threat from Iraq and North Korea; international terrorism; and the worldwide activities of the drug cartels presented an array of strategic challenges. At the same time, US public opinion called for a shift of resources to domestic needs. As they restructured defense posture after the Cold War, senior defense officials in both the Bush and Clinton administrations relied upon Admiral Jeremiah's advice to reshape policy on acquisition, force structure, and resource issues, particularly the DOD infrastructure.

As Chairman of the JROC and Vice Chairman of the DAB, Jeremiah faced the basic challenge of choosing weapons and communications systems for the twenty-first century at a time when little money was available to start new projects. He sought to move away from systems that could not be easily adapted to exploit new technologies or that were so highly specialized that they could only be used against a narrow threat or in a unique environment.

Admiral Jeremiah worked with the other members of the JROC to develop a requirements system in which advanced weapons and systems could be produced on a smaller scale and combined with existing systems

to satisfy contingency requirements while maintaining the US lead in defense technology. In Jeremiah's view, this would speed production, reduce costs, and allow the military to exploit new technologies in designing doctrine, tactics, and organizations. Within the JROC, Admiral Jeremiah pushed for several weapons systems he deemed vital to joint warfighting. Among these were joint command and control systems for global and theater contingencies, strategic sealift and the C-17 aircraft for modern strategic lift capability, better means for combat identification of friendly forces, and increased deployment of unmanned aerial vehicles to improve battlefield intelligence for the theater and joint task force commander.

Following heart surgery in November 1993, Admiral Jeremiah continued to serve as General Shalikashvili's Vice Chairman and perform a broad range of national security duties until his retirement on 28 February 1994. On Jeremiah's retirement, General Powell praised him for his major contributions to roles and missions and the joint requirements oversight process. Australia awarded him the first Order of Australia given to a foreign officer. After retiring, Jeremiah became a director of both Litton Industries and Alliant Techsystems and president of Technology Strategies and Alliances, a strategic consulting and investment banking firm based in northern Virginia.



# David Elmer Jeremiah

Admiral, USN

## Promotions

## Dates

Temporary

Permanent

ENS. . . . .		30 Mar 56
LTJG . . . . .		30 Sep 57
LT. . . . .		01 May 60
LCDR . . . . .		01 Mar 65
CDR . . . . .		01 Sep 69
CAPT. . . . .		01 Apr 77
COMO . . . . .	Jul 82 . . . . .	01 Oct 83
RADM . . . . .	01 Apr 85 . . . . .	01 Sep 86
VADM . . . . .		01 Jul 86
ADM . . . . .		01 Oct 87

## Assignments

## Dates

From

To

Naval Recruiting Station and Office of Naval		
Officer Procurement, Seattle, WA . . . . .	1956 . . . . .	1956
USS <i>Charles E. Brannon</i> . . . . .	1956 . . . . .	1959
Released from active duty. . . . .	1959 . . . . .	1961
USS <i>McGinty</i> . . . . .	1961 . . . . .	1962
USS <i>Twining</i> . . . . .	1962 . . . . .	1964
Fleet Training Center, San Diego, CA . . . . .	1964 . . . . .	1964
Operations Officer, USS <i>Benjamin Stoddert</i> . . . . .	1964 . . . . .	1966
Assistant Head, Surface Electronics Warfare		
Systems Section, Office of the Chief of Naval		
Operations, Fleet Operations and Readiness,		
Washington, DC . . . . .	1966 . . . . .	1968
Executive Officer, USS <i>Joseph Strauss</i> . . . . .	1968 . . . . .	1970
Student, Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, VA. . . . .	1970 . . . . .	1971
Student, Harvard University . . . . .	1971 . . . . .	1971
Systems Analyst, Office of the Secretary of Defense,		
Washington, DC . . . . .	1971 . . . . .	1974
Naval Destroyer School, Newport, RI . . . . .	1974 . . . . .	1974
Commander, USS <i>Preble</i> . . . . .	1974 . . . . .	1976
Head, Program, Plans and Development Branch,		
Office of the Chief of Naval Operations,		
Washington, DC . . . . .	1976 . . . . .	1979
Commander, Destroyer Squadron 24 . . . . .	1979 . . . . .	1980

## Assignments

	Dates	
	From	To
Executive Assistant to the Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet . . . . .	1980 . . . . .	1982
Executive Assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC . . . . .	1982 . . . . .	1984
Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Group EIGHT. . . . .	1984 . . . . .	1986
Director, Navy Program Planning, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, DC. . . . .	1986 . . . . .	1987
Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet. . . . .	1987 . . . . .	1990
Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Washington, DC . . . . .	1990 . . . . .	1994

## Principal US Military Decorations

Defense Distinguished Service Medal  
Navy Distinguished Service Medal (with 3 gold stars)  
Army Distinguished Service Medal  
Air Force Distinguished Service Medal  
Legion of Merit (with gold star)  
Meritorious Service Medal (with gold star)  
Navy Achievement Medal (with combat "V")